



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, secure and safe, and it is the responsibility of our society to protect every child's inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the hidden epidemic of child abuse crosses all boundaries of income, race, religion and ethnicity, and continues to be one of our most serious public health issues; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of abuse is perpetrated by people who children know and trust; in 2013, more than 1,100 victims of child abuse, or those who witnessed a crime, were served at one of the five Children's Justice Centers of Hawai'i – Children's Justice Center of O'ahu, Children's Justice Center of Maui, Children's Justice Center of Kaua'i, Children's Justice Center of West Hawai'i and Children's Justice Center of East Hawai'i; and, since 1988, when the first Children's Justice Center opened, more than 30,000 children have been served at a Children's Justice Center of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, child abuse has long-ranging effects relating to learning, self-esteem, and mental health; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by providing safe homes, emotional, social, legal, and financial support for victims and at-risk families; and by holding offenders accountable, we can ensure that all of Hawai'i's children grow to their full potential as healthy citizens; and

WHEREAS, providing the proper support to children in time of need and enhancing a child's understanding of his or her self-worth are crucial components of providing a bright future and raising healthy children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in cherishing Hawai'i's children and protecting them from harm.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-eighth day of March 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i